

SENATOR KEYES: Mr. Speaker, very quietly and very easy, I am going to get back to what Senator Koch's amendment does and it just simply states, and this is what I believe and I may be wrong, I have been wrong many times before, it just states that those people who are going to conduct the bingo, not the ones who buy the bingo permit, those who are going to let somebody else operate the bingo permit, those people cannot pay. If they are caught paying, we have just done away with the penalty, I don't know what the penalty is now since we didn't accept Barnett's penalty, but that is it. And for my good friend who has got on us quite bad for gambling, it seems that we have legalized in this state some gambling that's very honorable. They consider it very honorable. I sit in my broker's office for two or three years and I gambled with money that would make this bingo look like pennies but you never got a nickel's worth of tax out of it. You never got one thing out of me for all the money that I put in and took out of that place. If we want to let the people of this state, and I understand they are called the little people, if we want to let them play bingo and in which I once in awhile play with my wife and my mother, if we want to let them play bingo, let's try to conduct the thing so that it is half-way decent so that the people are given an honest shake, so that they do not send money into the coffers and the hands of those that are running the bingo today are not running it like it should be. We say in our law that you can only get the bingo permit for nonprofit organizations and then they turn and sell that and let somebody else operate that. This is what Senator Koch is trying to stop and I hope to heck he can stop it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, Senator Koch, doesn't your amendment simply say that if the operator of the VFW conducts bingo games, he can receive his salary as usual and that is not considered payment, isn't that all it says? Would you turn Senator Koch on so that he can say yes or no?

SENATOR KOCH: That is correct, Senator Nichol, if it is incidental with whatever performance that he gives to that club or association.

SENATOR NICHOL: All right. I sure don't see anything wrong with that and I would sure support it.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, I support fully what Senator Koch is doing but his amendment will not resolve the problem he is addressing itself to. I have offered a model amendment that was drafted out in California by a variety of people. I have additional minor amendments to it brought by the various bingo people here and they would then be in support of it. I wish you would listen to what I am going to tell you next because I think it is a serious matter. Studies have been conducted at some great expense recently in Ontario, in New York, in Georgia, a number of other states, but those particularly I have available and will get to you later today or tomorrow. The essence of